

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549-3010



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October 2, 2007

P. E 8-20-07

Anthony J. Horan Corporate Secretary Office of the Secretary JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, NY 10017-2070

Act: 1934

Section:\_\_\_ Rule:\_\_\_\_

Public Availability: 10

Re:

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Incoming letter dated August 20, 2007

Dear Mr. Horan:

This is in response to your letter dated August 20, 2007 concerning the shareholder proposal submitted to JPMorgan Chase by John Jennings Crapo. Our response is attached to the enclosed photocopy of your correspondence. By doing this, we avoid having to recite or summarize the facts set forth in the correspondence. Copies of all of the correspondence also will be provided to the proponent.

In connection with this matter, your attention is directed to the enclosure, which sets forth a brief discussion of the Division's informal procedures regarding shareholder proposals.

PROCESSED

OCT 1 2 2007

THOMSON FINANCIAL Sincerely,

Jonathan A. Ingram
Deputy Chief Counsel

**Enclosures** 

cc:

John Jennings Crapo P.O. Box 400151

Cambridge, MA 02140-0002

# JPMorganChase 🗘

Anthony J. Horan Corporate Secretary Office of the Secretary

August 20, 2007

Via Electronic Mail

Office of Chief Counsel
Division of Corporation Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of Chief Counsel
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

2007 AUG 21 AM 10: 57

Re:

Omission of Stockholder Proposal by JPMorgan Chase & Co. Pursuant to Rule 14a-8:

John Jennings Crapo

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of JPMorgan Chase & Co. (the "Company"), a Delaware corporation, and pursuant to Rule 14a-8(j) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, I hereby notify the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that the Company intends to omit from its notice of meeting, proxy statement and form of proxy (the "Proxy Materials") for its 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders a proposal and supporting statement submitted to the Company by John Jennings Crapo (the "Proponent"), by letter dated May 18, 2007, and received by the Company on May 23, 2007 (the "Proposal"). A copy of the Proposal and our Notification Letter below are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B respectively.

The Company intends to omit the proposal in its Proxy Materials pursuant to Rule 14a-8(d) and Rule 14a-8(f). Rule 14a-8(d) provides that a proposal and accompanying supporting statement together may not exceed 500 words. Pursuant to Rule 14a-8(f), the Company notified the Proponent in a letter sent via United States Postal Service Express Mail on June 1, 2007 (our "Notification Letter"), that his Proposal exceeded the 500-word limit and would be excluded from the Proxy Materials unless he corrected this deficiency with his response postmarked, or transmitted electronically, no later than 14 calendar days from the date he received our Notification Letter. The Company has not received a response from the Proponent.

Our 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is scheduled to be held on May 20, 2008, and we currently intend to mail to stockholders definitive proxy materials for the meeting on or about March 31, 2008. Accordingly, this filing complies with Rule 14a-8(j)(1). I am the Secretary of the Company.

We are simultaneously providing the Proponent with a copy of this letter and notifying him of our intention to omit the Proposal from our Proxy Materials, in accordance with Rule 14a-8(j). A copy of this letter has been e-mailed to cfletters@sec.gov in compliance with the instructions found at the SEC's web site and in lieu of our providing six additional copies of this letter pursuant to Rule 14a-8(j)(2).

The Company respectfully requests the SEC to advise that it will not recommend enforcement action if the Proposal is omitted from our Proxy Materials due to the Proponent's failure to meet the eligibility requirement set forth in Rule 14a-8(d). Should the SEC not agree with our conclusions or require any additional information in support or clarification of our position, please contact me prior to issuing your response. Your consideration is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Anthony J. Horan Corporate Secretary

cc: Mr. John Jennings Crapo

P.O. Box 400151

Cambridge MA 02140-0002

### Exhibit A

### JOHN JENNINGS CRAPO PROPOSAL

Attached hereto as PDF file

### Exhibit B

# NOTIFICATION LETTER and MAIL RECEIPTS VERIFYING DELIVERY

Attached hereto as PDF file

JOHN J. CRAPO, Homeless JP MORGAN Chase and company INC Shareholder pase milos/pseven/07/ pase printed on 60/1 02140-0002 Blanch et coteng POBOY 400151 (AMBRIDGE MA May 18th 2007 Via Certified mail with priority Suc return recent requelle OP MORGAN CHASE AND COMPANY Attention please MSTR ANTHONY P. HORAN, ESGUIRE CORPORATION Secretary or Succession to said secretory, # SCI 270 PARH Abenue New York (1/4 N)

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SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007

THE BOSTON GLOBE

"Bank of America has a strong track record of hiring and developing associ-ates. We have been recognized for our success in creating and supporting a We intend to vigorously defend a

A Bank of America spokeswoman said the bank intends to "vigorously defend against the claims in the lawed against African-American employ-ees by steering them to pourer clients and territories, five current and former employees alleged in a lawsult filed in imerica Investment Services Inc. division, which is run from Boston and is part of the bank's Global Wealth and Investment Management division US District Court in Boston yesterday thants offices of the bank's Banc

# **Bank of America** in worker bias su

► BANK OF AMERICA Continued from Page C10

large financial institutions, has done much to stress its community ties and contributions to local causes nationwide.

But the suit, which seeks classaction status, alleges that many African-American employees in the bank and its investment division were largely partnered only with others of the same race and were disproportionately sent "to sales territories which are largely minority and/or low net worth. This practice has significantly and adversely impacted the job suc-

cess, career, and income of plaintiffs and the class," the suit states, and also makes reference to "subjective decision-making by a predominantly Caucasian management structure."

When plaintiffs complained, they were told that many of the bank's clients "are more 'comfortable' dealing with sales professionals of their own race," the suit

Bank of America is based in Charlotte, N.C., but relocated wealth management to Boston following its acquisition of FleetBoston Financial Corp. for \$48 billion

in 2004.

Four of the plaintiffs worked at least for a time in the bank's Atlanta offices while a fifth worked in a bank office in Clayton, Mo. In all, the bank has about 3,000 financial advisers and 4,400 banking advisers, known as "premier bankers.

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sales territories, giving them advantages in developing their own

Only a few mixed-race sales partnerships have been allowed by the bank, on a temporary basis, the complaint states, a practice it calls "parking." The practices vio-lated federal and state civil rights laws, states the suit, which seeks unspecified damages and orders to require the bank to change its policies.

Ross Kerber can be reached at kerber@globe.com.

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SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2007

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Ross Kerber can be reached at k<del>arber@globe.co</del>m.

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# Black workers file bias suit against Bank Bank of America Corp. discriminat-

ed against African-American employees by steering them to poorer clients and territories, five current and former employees alleged in a lawsuit filed in US District Court in Boston yesterday.

The plaintiffs worked mainly in the Atlanta offices of the bank's Banc of America Investment Services Inc. division, which is run from Boston and is part of the bank's Global Wealth and Investment Management division

A Bank of America spokeswoman said the bank intends to "vigorously defend against the claims in the lawsuit."

"Bank of America has a strong track record of hiring and developing associates. We have been recognized for our success in creating and supporting a diverse and inclusive workplace. Our company does not tolerate discrimination. We intend to vigorously defend against the claims made in this lawsuit," she said.

The complaint offers an unusual criticism of the bank which, like other

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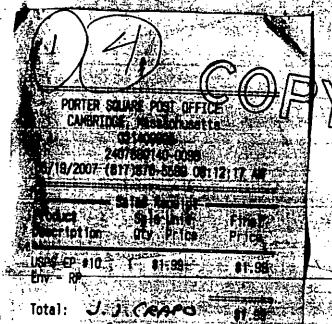
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J. J. CRAPO

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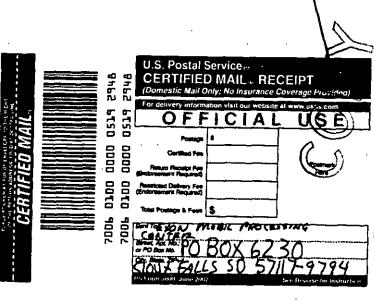
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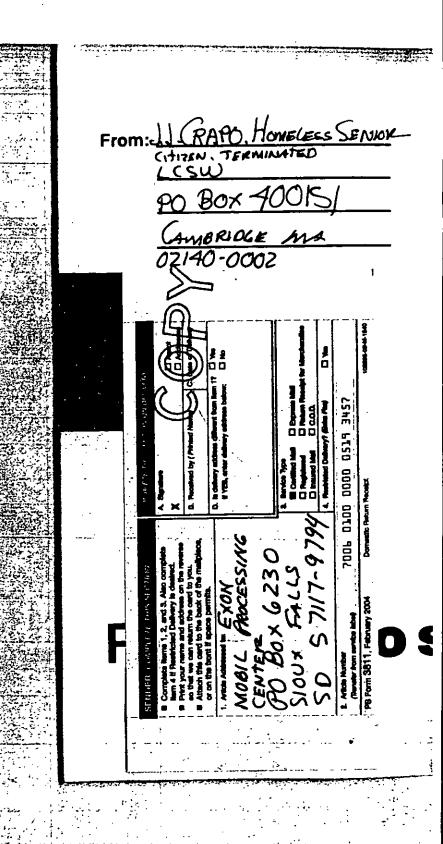
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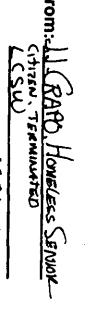
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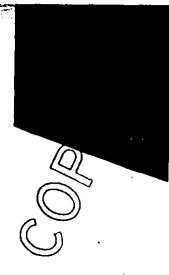
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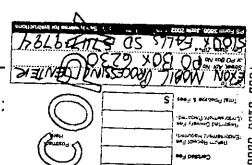
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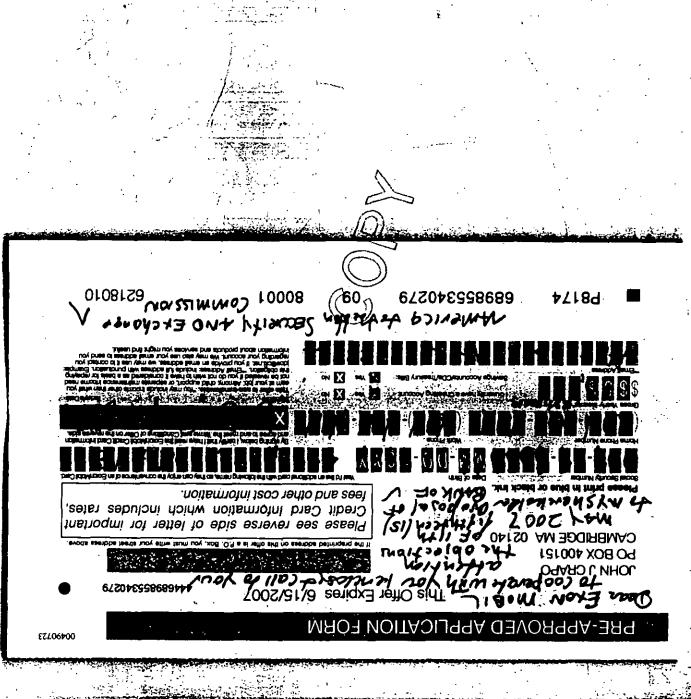
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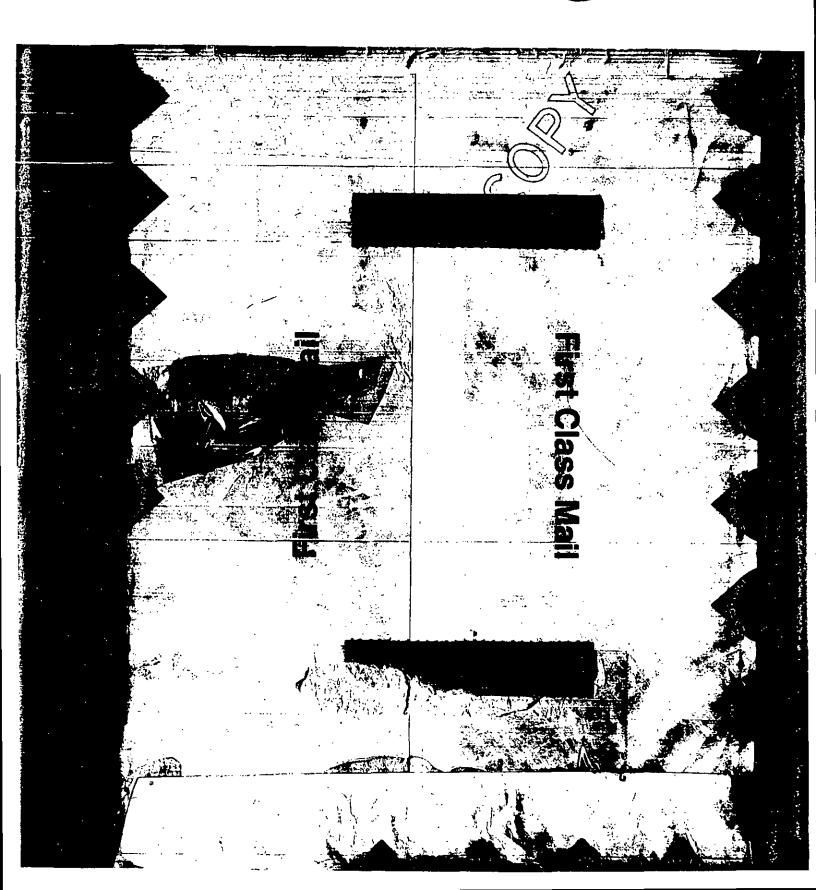
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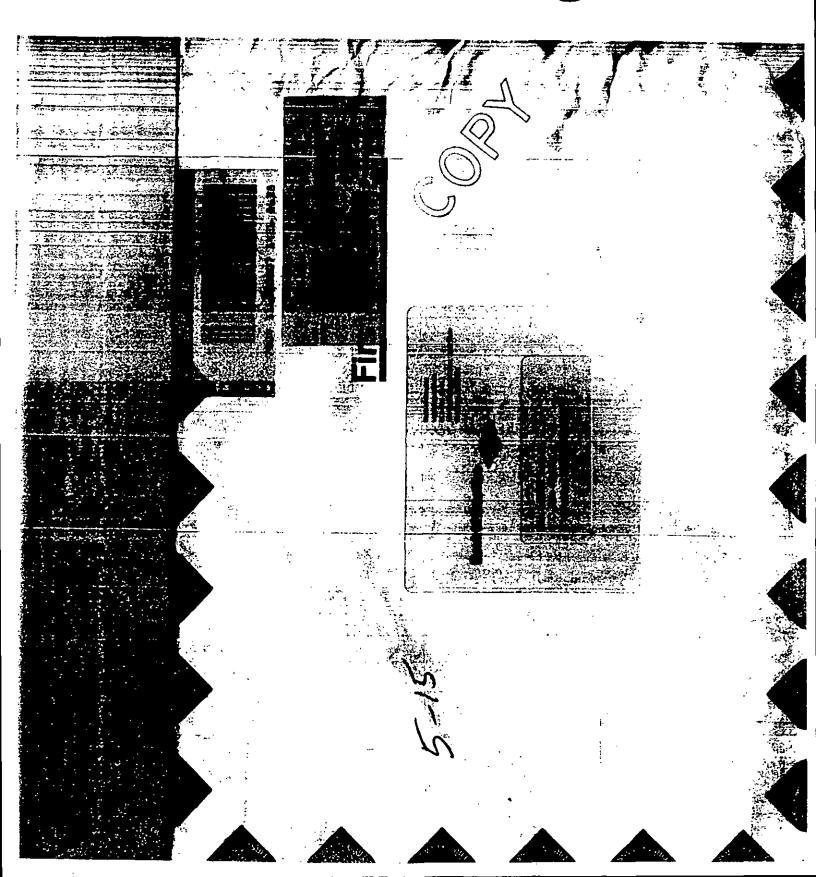
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William J. Mostyn III
Deputy General Counsel and
Corporate Secretary

May 11, 2007

### BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Securities and Exchange Commission Office of Chief Counsel Division of Corporation Finance 100 F. Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549

Re: Stockholder Proposal Submitted by John Jennings Crapo

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bank of America Corporation (the "Corporation") has received a proposal and supporting statement dated April 7, 2007 (the "Proposal") from John Jennings Crapo (the "Proponent") for inclusion in the proxy materials for the Corporation's 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "2008 Annual Meeting"). The Proposal is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Proposal is handwritten and, in some instances, illegible. For your convenience, a good faith transcription is attached as Exhibit B hereto. The Corporation hereby requests confirmation that the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance (the "Division") will not recommend enforcement action if the Corporation omits the Proposal from its proxy materials for the 2008 Annual Meeting for the reasons set forth herein.

#### **GENERAL**

The 2008 Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held on or about April 24, 2008. The Corporation intends to file its definitive proxy materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on or about March 1, 2008 and to commence mailing to its stockholders on or about such date.



Pursuant to Rule 14a-8(j) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), enclosed are:

- 1. Six copies of this letter, which includes an explanation of why the Corporation believes that it may exclude the Proposal; and
- 2. Six copies of the Proposal.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Proponent as notice of the Corporation's intent to omit the Proposal from the Corporation's proxy materials for the 2008 Annual Meeting.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL**

The Proposal requests that the Board of Directors provide a report "concerning the thinking of the Directors concerning representative payees." The report should include the "standards for selection of these important people."

#### **REASONS FOR EXCLUSION OF PROPOSAL**

The Corporation believes that the Proposal may be properly omitted from the proxy materials for the 2008 Annual Meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(3), Rule 14a-8(i)(4), Rule 14a-8(i)(5) and Rule 14a-8(i)(7). The Proposal may be excluded pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(3) because it is in violation of the proxy rules. The Proposal may be excluded pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(4) because it relates to a personal interest of the Proponent that is not shared by other stockholders at large. The Proposal may be excluded pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(5) because it is not economically or otherwise significantly related to the business of the Corporation. Finally, the Proposal may be excluded pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(7) because (assuming it was applicable, as discussed further below) it deals with a matter relating to the Corporation's ordinary business operations.

1. The Corporation may omit the Proposal pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(3) because it is in violation of the proxy rules.

Rule 14a-8(i)(3) also permits the exclusion of a proposal if it or its supporting statement is contrary to any of the Commission's proxy rules and regulations, including Rule 14a-9, which prohibits the making of false or misleading statements in proxy soliciting materials or the omission of any material fact necessary to make statements contained therein not false or misleading, and Rule 14a-5, which requires that information in a proxy statement be "clearly presented." In addition, the Division has recognized that a proposal and/or supporting statement may be excluded under Rule 14a-8(i)(3) if it is so vague and indefinite that shareholders voting on the proposal would not be able

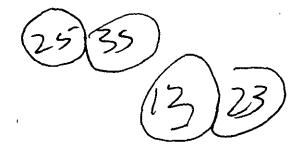


to determine with reasonable certainty exactly what action or measures would be required in the event the proposal was adopted. See Bank of America (February 171, 1006) ("Bank of America P"); Sara Lee Corporation (March 31, 2004) ("Sara Lee"); Bank of America (March 10, 2004); Philadelphia Electric Co. (July 30, 1992); IDACORP, Inc. (January 9, 2001); and Northeast Utility Service Company (April 9, 2001).

The Proposal is false and misleading in violation of Rule 14a-9. Neither the Corporation nor its board of directors is involved in the selection of representative payees for its customers. The Proposal falsely assumes this to be the case. The Proposal requests a report from the board of directors regarding its representative payee selection process, criteria and retention policies. A "representative payee" is an individual or organization that receives benefits (such as Social Security and other benefit payments) for someone who cannot manage or direct the management of his/her money. Representative payees are expected to use the funds for the current and foreseeable needs of the beneficiary and save any remaining funds for the beneficiary's future use. Generally, minor children and legally incompetent adults have representative payees appointed. Representative payees are typically relatives or friends, if available, but may also be appointed by court order or by a federal or state agency (such as the Social Security Administration or a parallel state agency that provides health and human services). In addition, representative payees are generally regulated by the federal and/or state agency from which they are receiving benefits on behalf of a beneficiary. Whether or not a beneficiary (or his/her representative payee) chooses to bank with the Corporation, neither the Corporation nor its board of directors is involved in the selection, retention or regulation of representative payees. Accordingly, the Proposal is false and misleading because it is factually inaccurate and based on a false assumption.

In addition, the Proposal is vague and indefinite. The Proposal seeks a report regarding the "thinking of Directors concerning representative payees." The Proposal also request the criteria for the selection and retention of representative payees. The Proposal does not provide any further clarification of what is intended by the "thinking" of directors. As noted above, since neither the Corporation nor its board of directors is responsible for the selection or retention of representative payees, the Proposal is inapplicable to the Corporation. As a result, neither the Corporation nor stockholders voting on the Proposal would be able to determine with reasonable certainty exactly what action or measures would be required in the event the Proposal was adopted. In addition, the supporting statement is rambling and generally irrelevant to the subject matter of the Proposal. The supporting statement discusses the housing conditions of the Proponent and the staff that works at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For general information regarding representative payees, see the Social Security Administration website at <a href="http://www.ssa.gov/payee/faqrep.htm">http://www.ssa.gov/payee/faqrep.htm</a> or the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' website at <a href="http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/doa/gs/man/">http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/doa/gs/man/</a>.



his resident home. Taken as a whole, the Proposal and supporting statement are anything but "clearly presented." The Proposal makes statements as if they were factually correct—that the board of directors is responsible for the selection and retention of representative payees—but are in fact in correct.

Based on the foregoing, the Corporation believes that the Proposal and supporting statement are contrary to the proxy rules, including Rule 14a-9, which prohibits materially false or misleading statements and may be omitted under Rule 14a-8(i)(3), in violation of both Rule 14a-9 and Rule 14a-5.

2. The Corporation may omit the Proposal under Rule 14a-8(i)(4) because it relates to a personal interest of the Proponent that is not shared by other shareholders at large.

Rule 14a-8(i)(4) permits the exclusion of shareholder proposals that are: (i) related to the redress of a personal claim or grievance against a company or any other person, or (ii) designed to result in a benefit to a proponent or to further a personal interest of a proponent, which other shareholders at large do not share. See Sara Lee Corporation (August 10, 2001); KeyCorp (February 22, 2001); Chittenden Corporation (January 2, 2001) and The Dow Chemical Company (March 5, 2003). The Proposal qualifies both as a personal grievance against the Corporation and as an attempt by the Proponent to obtain a personal benefit that will not be shared with other Stockholders of the Corporation. The Proponent is upset with the Corporation because he believes that the Corporation is not adequately selecting representative payees, including presumably, his own.

The Commission has stated that Rule 14a-8(i)(4) is designed to "insure that the security holder proposal process [is] not abused by proponents attempting to achieve personal ends that are not necessarily in the common interest of the issuer's shareholders generally." Exchange Act Release 34-20091 (August 16, 1983). As explained below, the Proposal "is an abuse of the security holder proposal process" designed to pursue the Proponent's personal grievances and personal interests without producing any benefit for other shareholders at large. The cost and time involved in dealing with the Proposal is therefore a disservice to the interests of the issuer and its security holders at large." Exchange Act Release 34-19135 (October 14, 1982).

The Proposal clearly relates to the Proponent's personal situation. The supporting statement indicates that the Proponent lives at a "homeless men's shelter at Boston, Massachusetts with a census of four hundred (400) men." Based on the supporting statement, it appears that the Proponent has a representative payee to assist him with his daily financial and other needs, possibly an employee of his resident facility. The Proponent complains that he "knows nothing as to qualifications of staff there who manage the place. Same goes for the Directors of said [facility] who are the ones direct the place." The balance of the supporting statement questions the ability



and integrity of the persons that are acting as representative payee. The Proposal is clearly unique to the Proponent and is not relevant to shareholders at large.

The Proposal is (i) related to the redress of a personal claim or grievance and (ii) designed to result further a personal interest of the Proponent, which other Stockholders of the Corporation at large do not share. Accordingly, the Proposal may be excluded under Rule 14a-8(i)(4).

3. The Corporation may omit the Proposal pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(5) because The Proposal is not significantly related to the business of the Corporation

Rule 14a-8(i)(5) permits exclusion of a proposal which relates to operations which (i) account for less than 5 percent of the company's total assets at the end of its most recent fiscal year, (ii) account for less than 5 percent of its net earnings for the most recent fiscal year, (iii) account for less than 5 percent of its gross sales for its most recent fiscal year and (iv) is not otherwise significantly related to the company's business. See Merck & Co., Inc. (January 4, 2006); The Proctor & Gamble Company (August 11, 2003); and Hewlett-Packard Company (January 7, 2003) ("HPC").

As discussed above, neither the Corporation nor its board of directors is involved in the selection, retention or regulation of representative payees. The Corporation has no assets related to, and generates no earnings or revenues from representative payee related matters. In addition, representative payee appointments are not otherwise significantly related to the Corporation's business and the Corporation has no control over and does not regulate the appointment and reterntion of representative payees.

The Corporation clearly satisfies the economic tests of Rule 14a-8(i)(5) and the policy issue raised by the Proposal, the selection and retention of representative payees is not significant, and in fact is not in any way related, to the Corporation's business. Rather, the Proposal only addresses the personal concerns of the Proponent. For the reasons set forth above, the Corporation believes the Proposal may be omitted from the proxy materials for the 2008 Annual Meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8(i)(5).

4. The Corporation may omit the Proposal under Rule 14a-8(i)(7) because it deals with a matter relating to the Corporation's ordinary business operations.

Rule 14a-8(i)(7) allows a company to omit a proposal that deals with a matter relating to the conduct of the ordinary business operations of the company. As discussed above, the Proposal is inapplicable to the Corporation. However, the Proposal can generally be viewed as related to customer service. The Proposal deals with the appointment of persons to assist individuals that need help conducting their daily affairs. The Division has consistently found matters related to





customer service to be excludable under 14a-8(i)(7) because they constitute the day-to-day ordinary business of the Corporation. See also BellSouth Corporation (January 9, 2003); Verizon Communications Inc. (January 9, 2003); Wal-Mark Stores, Inc. (March 27, 2001); and Deere & Company (November 30, 2000).

The Proposal, if applicable, addresses the Corporation's customer relations and raises no significant policy issues. The Corporation believes that it is clear that the Proposal addresses ordinary business matters that are part of the day-to day exercise of management responsibility. Accordingly, the Corporation believes that the Proposal may be omitted from its proxy materials for its 2008 Annual Meeting based on Rule 14a-8(i)(7).

#### CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing, the Corporation respectfully requests the concurrence of the Division that the Proposal may be excluded from the Corporation's proxy materials for the 2008 Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 704-386-5083.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by stamping and returning the enclosed receipt copy of this letter. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

William J. Mostyn III (Deputy General Counsel

and Corporate Secretary

cc: John Jennings Crapo





EXHIBIT A

J. J. CRAPO. Homeles Bok o Am. Stockholder . Terminated CCSW PO BOX 400151 CAMBRIDIMA 02190-0002 Pase are (a) y fire (05) pb 07APRIL 2007 Via Cirhfied mail return se cent requale Shareholder proposal BANK OF AMERICA CORP TO BANK OF AMERICA Attn Please Share holder Meeting CORPORATION SECRETARY of assembled share. 101 S TRYON STREET holders and proces NC1-002-29-01 convened as a shekholder meeting - For the succeeding said CHARLOTTE NC 28255 meeting Following The closure of the 2007th Calendar tear annual mertingers harrholdes 1) Banky America but in the event, there is No Special matters of shareholders and

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#### EXHIBIT B

## Good Faith Translation of Crapo Proposal

IT IS REQUESTED that the Bank of American Corp. Board of Directors ("Directors") provide us with a report in the proxy statement at the Stockholder Meeting which shall take place next following this shareholder meeting concerning the thinking of the Directors concerning representative payees. We wish the report be complete. We want to know the standards for selection of these important people, there their retention in these roles.

Supporting Statement

Shareholder proponent doesn't wish this to interfere in ordinary business of the corporation but the proponent who was introduced presented and submitted shareholder proposals to national corporations and diverse other companies and has been sincere at these undertakings and done so at his own expense believes there are compelling reasons that we understand further the thinking of our directors and of them individually as directors. Directors set the policy.

Proponent himself is a terminated LCSW (Licensed Certified Social Worker) and live at a horneless men's shelter at Boston, Massachusetts with a census of four hundred (400) men. Where he has very little information as to how these selections are made of representative payees. A population of substance abusers, alcoholics, chronic smokers, [illegible], disabled, unemployed and other such persons is the composition of the Pine INN STREET INN at 444 Harrison Avenue. He knows nothing as to qualifications of staff there who manage the place. Same goes for the Directors of said INN who are the ones direct the place.

There are those who are recipients of funds on behalf of people, and persons funds are received by the payees. Doesn't know if how that is done is subject to scrutiny and by whom and what causes there shall be for failure to do good and honorable service to these people. And wonders what the reasons are for they being in that situation. He wonders if a person had [sound housing] if they would need a representative payee and could said payee do an effective job as fiduciary if not having good housing and wonders what such good housing should be then is it correct to nominate someone as trustee, conservator guardian or other fiduciary simply for the reason of his having housing unfit for human habitation or simply for minimum maintenance of life when that isn't written. The province of recipient's beneficiary but rather the failure of the caretakers.

J. J. CRAPO, ProSe Identes JP morgon Chaset Co INC Stockholder POBOX 400151 CAMbridy MA 02140-0002 18 may 2007 VIA CMRNR Socurities & Sichary Passarilos)4 Commission Commission Divisiony Corporation Finance attriplein DIVISION Director Washington DC 20549, 0213 primy Shareholder prohous submission to the How JP Morgan thase & Combany MI Dear Gentlement Ladies Enewood 1 (Met to your adtertion it's 1xhibits + countery straters fransmitter to other, infortant person. Brikket sincerely to D. D. Crafer. hastils. ))C/ij(

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Side reversi Blanch, May 18th 2007 Via Tork fred war return received requestes states massachusells Human services PIVISION John W McCormack, Him Rise milos) ashburton place ANSWER PENEW Sheek Bosm MA Re: Your letter Dated 2007/05/03 my sett 004-34-8050 7999 Correction officer anolos) Department y correction test was at Washington IRVING school at cummin ?? Boston MA 1 Wish the information promised in Your ladder. I call to your adden from the exhibit enclosed which I got You to include immy Filtry having MOVE

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# JPMorganChase 🗘

Anthony J. Horan Corporate Secretary Office of the Secretary

June 1, 2007

Mr. John Jennings Crapo P.O. Box 400151 Cambridge Ma 02140-0002

Dear Mr. Crapo:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 18, 2007, and received in my office on May 23, 2007, whereby you advise that you intend to submit a stockholder proposal for consideration at JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2008.

We have reviewed your letter and bring to your attention the following deficiency regarding eligibility in accordance with Rule 14a-8 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC):

Your proposal and accompanying supporting statement exceeds the 500 word limit. Please revise accordingly.

SEC Rule 14a-8(f) requires that you correct the above deficiencies within 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of this letter. If you do not correct the deficiencies we cite, your proposal will be excluded from our proxy statement. Your response must be postmarked, or transmitted electronically, no later than 14 days from the date you receive this notification.

Very truly yours,

JPMorgan Chase & Co. • 270 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017-2070

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# DIVISION OF CORPORATION FINANCE INFORMAL PROCEDURES REGARDING SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

The Division of Corporation Finance believes that its responsibility with respect to matters arising under Rule 14a-8 [17 CFR 240.14a-8], as with other matters under the proxy rules, is to aid those who must comply with the rule by offering informal advice and suggestions and to determine, initially, whether or not it may be appropriate in a particular matter to recommend enforcement action to the Commission. In connection with a shareholder proposal under Rule 14a-8, the Division's staff considers the information furnished to it by the Company in support of its intention to exclude the proposals from the Company's proxy materials, as well as any information furnished by the proponent or the proponent's representative.

Although Rule 14a-8(k) does not require any communications from shareholders to the Commission's staff, the staff will always consider information concerning alleged violations of the statutes administered by the Commission, including argument as to whether or not activities proposed to be taken would be violative of the statute or rule involved. The receipt by the staff of such information, however, should not be construed as changing the staff's informal procedures and proxy review into a formal or adversary procedure.

It is important to note that the staff's and Commission's no-action responses to Rule 14a-8(j) submissions reflect only informal views. The determinations reached in these no-action letters do not and cannot adjudicate the merits of a company's position with respect to the proposal. Only a court such as a U.S. District Court can decide whether a company is obligated to include shareholder proposals in its proxy materials. Accordingly a discretionary determination not to recommend or take Commission enforcement action, does not preclude a proponent, or any shareholder of a company, from pursuing any rights he or she may have against the company in court, should the management omit the proposal from the company's proxy material.

# Response of the Office of Chief Counsel Division of Corporation Finance

Re:

JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Incoming letter dated August 20, 2007

The proposal relates to the board providing a report.

There appears to be some basis for your view that JPMorgan Chase may exclude the proposal under rule 14a-8(f). We note in particular that the proposal appears to exceed the 500-word limitation imposed by rule 14a-8(d). Accordingly, we will not recommend enforcement action to the Commission if JPMorgan Chase omits the proposal from its proxy materials in reliance on rules 14a-8(d) and 14a-8(f).

Sincerely,

Jamara M. Brightwell
Tamara M. Brightwell

Special Counsel

END